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COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC

Military Information from Cottbus

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 7 January 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 17 November 1952, the Sachsenhof Kaserne on Jahn Strasse and Heidehof Weg, Cottbus, was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, and black-bordered black epaulets. About 120 troops received individual basic training. 60 troops received instruction on a tank turret, which was mounted on a concrete foundation, and 50 troops were taking the bark off poles, were telephone poles, in the barracks yard.

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2. On 17 November, the Hermann Loens Kaserne, south of Hermann Loens Strasse and west of Dresdener Strasse, including the private buildings north of the installation, which were occupied by Russians, quartered about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including a few with tank insignia. Garages with a total of 30 stalls were being erected in the east section of the installation.

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3. On 17 November, the Alvensleben Kaserne, south of Karl Liebknecht Strasse and east of Friedrich Engels Strasse, was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and including a few wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Four 122-mm field howitzers were seen in the southeast section of the installation. About 180 troops carrying saws, axes and spades marched out of the installation toward Dissenchen.

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4. On 17 November, the Funker Kaserne, east of Pappel Allee and north of Gulbener Strasse, was occupied by about 600 troops wearing black-bordered crimson and red-bordered black epaulets.

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5. On 17 November, the Dissenchen Kaserne on the west exit of Dissenchen, was occupied by about 400 troops, mostly wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and black-bordered crimson epaulets. About 30 troops did entrenching work in the adjacent woods.

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7. On 13 November, the Alvensleben Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Only part of the installation was lighted after nightfall. Four 76-mm AT guns and 4 x 57-mm AT guns were at the south-west gate. Eight trucks were seen in the barracks area. On 1 December, a newly erected garage, about 4 x 12 meters, was determined in the east section of the installation.

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8. On 13 November, the Funker Kaserne was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia. From 15 to 18 November, details were constructing an earth bunker, 3 meters underground, west of the railroad line and between the fuel depot and the garages.

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9. From 8 to 10 November, the Hermann Loens Kaserne was occupied by a tank unit and a higher echelon headquarters, totaling about 600 to 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 8 November, JS tanks and T-34/85 tanks were seen in the garage. Two large bunkers, which could be heated, were seen and a mine field with barbed-wire obstacles was being prepared, in the southeast corner of the installation. On 1 December, about 100 recruits were at basic training on the drill ground. Two engineer officers and an NCO carrying books, manuals and mine, 30 x 15 x 25 cm, and equipped with a clock entered the installation, coming from the direction of the Sachsendorf Kaserne.

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10. From 8 to 10 November, the Sachsendorf Kaserne was occupied by a reconnaissance unit, an artillery unit, a tank unit and a signal unit. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black and black-bordered black epaulets. T-34/85 tanks were seen in the installation on 8 November. On 15 November, low wooden buildings with stoves were being built, and an obstacle course with planks was being prepared, in the area south of the installation. On 18 November, 74 troops entered the installation, coming from the area west of the Cottbus-Drebkau road. One of the soldiers carried an AT mine of about 30 cm in diameter. On 1 December, several details engaged in infantry training in the area east of the installation. On the same day, about 24 to 30 troops practiced posting and relieving the guard and several small details engaged in physical training, in the barracks area, while 6 soldiers carrying signal equipment left the installation toward Hermann Loens Kaserne.

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11. On 18 November, the Dissenchen Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and including a few with tank insignia. On 15 November, a company was seen constructing field emplacements with bunkers in the area east of the installation. At about 10 a.m., motor vehicles [redacted] each towing a 76-mm gun, and [redacted] occupied by 30 to 35 artillery officers, went to the training ground. On 13 November, a senior officer was seen instructing 16 artillery officers on a 122-mm field gun in the area east of the Dissenchen-Merzdorf road. On 1 December, about 120 troops were training with machine guns in the training area of the installation. Barracks buildings with stoves were determined in an improved field emplacement east of the Dissenchen-Merzdorf road. Motor vehicles [redacted] were parked in the training area. [redacted] 25X1
12. From 9 to 18 October, Lieutenant Colonel Gonsharenko (phonetical spelling) (fnu) was commanding officer of the Dissenchen Kaserne [redacted] On 14 October, [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation [redacted] 25X1
13. From 9 to 18 October, T-34/35 tanks [redacted] were seen near the Alvensleben Kaserne. [redacted] 25X1
1. Comment. According to information contained in the present report and previous reports, the elements of the 9th Mecz Div are believed stationed in the military installations in Cottbus as follows: 25X1
- a. The division headquarters, the 70th Mecz Regt and a tank repair shop, in the Hermann Lochns Kaserne.
  - b. The 69th Mecz Regt, the 100th (?) Rcn Bn, and the 999th (?) Sig Bn, in the Sachsendorf Kaserne.
  - c. The 692d How Arty Regt, and the 441st Gds RL Bn, in the Alvensleben Kaserne.
  - d. The 71st Mecz Regt in the Dissenchen Kaserne. It is not known where the 32d Engr Bn is stationed. It may be stationed in Spremberg.

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